SOMALILAND M01
SYRIA MD1

Wells

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Wells may belong to private individuals or they may be the property of the tribe. Ownership is based on the construction of the wells. The custom varies from place to place but, generally speaking, the person or tribe who has dug the well has primary rights over it. Should he not be using it, other people may do so.

Natural and Artificial Basins

Natural basins are freely used by all. Artificial basins are owned by a person or tribe. Persons other than the owners may be authorized to use these basins against the payment of a fee.

SYRIA

Water Rights

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Water generally belongs to the owner of the land on which it is located. In areas where water is scarce, however, land and water can be sold and rented separately.

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In Soukhne, along the Euphrates, water sellers may be paid in money or in goods. The owners of small hydraulic enterprises (motor pumps, etc.) on the Euphrates are often paid by the farmers with half of their harvest for the water they furnish even though the cost of irrigation amounts to no more than 8 to 10 percent of the yield.

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According to custom, important personalities have water rights superior to those of the common people. Such rights, sometimes taken by force, are often no more than usage rights which do not imply the real ownership of a spring or a river.

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Ownership of water can be private or collective. Private ownership is rare and applies only to springs or wells of no great importance. It is to be found in densely-populated districts of the Mediterranean slope or in the cultivated steppes. Small gardens irrigated in this way are often individually set up by farmers or wealthy citizens as an investment of their capital. Such gardens are called <u>bousting</u>.